

Briefly, claims 1-14 and 16 were rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. § 251. The Examiner indicated that the Reissue Application Declaration and Power of Attorney is defective inasmuch as the applicant failed to indicate the error that led to the filing of the reissue application. The Examiner specifically requested information on German Patent Office unity of invention requirements that may have affected the claim drafting.

In response, the reissue declaration, which is submitted herewith, has been clarified. More specifically, at page 5, the declaration now states that there has been a misunderstanding on the subject of unity of invention requirements. First, it now appears that the original claim drafting may not have contributed to the deficiency in the claims. Second, no formal action was ever taken on the unity of invention issue by the German Patent Office (or the applicant) nor is there any specific policy known to the applicant that required any particular unity of invention claim drafting. Notwithstanding the misunderstanding on the issue, sufficient reasons for the errors in the claims are specifically set forth in the declaration. Accordingly, the deficiency in the declaration is submitted to be overcome.

The Examiner noted that formal drawing or the transfer of drawings will be required when the case is allowed. The applicants intend to provide such drawings at that time.

In view of the foregoing, all objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 251 are submitted to be remedied. Accordingly,